



ALABAMA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006

**Col Mike Oakman
Commander**

**Lt Col Walter Williams
Vice-Commander**

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To All of our ALWG Members,

I want to take a minute of your time and thank each and every one of you that has called, written and emailed me regarding the passing of Betsy, my loving wife of 37 years. It has been the continued compassion of each and every member that has provided a strong support structure for me. It never stops amazing me of how this organization, CAP, can produce such associations with the best-of-the-best, and the greatest lasting friendships I have ever known.

You know, we all share several common goals: the love of our own personal God, love of Country and State, a compassion and a need to help, and the love for flying. For me this is what makes each and every one of you that special person willing to serve in this organization.

Thank you for letting me serve you and allowing me to help lead this great Wing. Thank you again for honoring Betsy with your thoughts and prayers.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Oakman
Col., CAP, USAF Auxiliary
ALWG Commander

Commander's Comments Safety Philosophy

Organizations with a culture of safety exude a commitment to safety that percolates down through the entire organization. But such a culture can only be created if the seniors and cadet members all learn the importance of making what we do safer and truly commit ourselves to that goal. Too often, however, this transformation comes on the heels of hard, bitter and wholly avoidable experience.

Assuming that understanding the risk and cost of accidents provides the incentive needed to create a culture of safety, each squadron leadership should compose and implement a nuts-and-bolt Safety Program.

A successful safety program at any level of CAP starts with Senior Leadership. Squadrons are on the front lines and share greatly in a role of creating a culture of safety. In general our programs must accomplish the following:

1. Clearly make safety a legitimate value.

2. Secure a commitment to safety from all Senior and Cadet Members.
3. Train more than one to be a safety officer.
4. Require regular training for members.
5. Require routine meetings with members where you or your safety officers stress particular hazards which may be encountered while doing what we do.

Finally, you as a leader, a professional, the expert need to understand that you have an important role with in the Wing in fostering a culture of Safety.

*Col. Mike Oakman
Commander*

Alabama Wing Receives Safety Donations



Capt. Cathy C Dempsey accepts donation from US Space Alliance Al Renee Bahsoun, a member of their USA

Charity Committee, for Alabama Wing Safety Program. Also, Publix Supermarket's Manager, Michael Forysthe. The store on Mountain Gap Road in Huntsville donated \$100 towards our safety program.

Clay County conducts Aerospace Education Day

(ASHLAND, AL) Civil Air Patrol conducts aerospace education day.

On April 15th, when many people were up in the air about their taxes, members of Clay County Flight were flying high. The local CAP unit hosted an aerospace education day at the Ashland/Lineville airport. The goal of the day was to inform the public of the importance of general aviation to our nation as well as to our local economy. Many people are unaware of the impact that general aviation has on a community's growth potential and economic security. Even fewer Alabama's citizens are aware of the significant impact that Alabama has had on the development of aviation technology or that Alabama has been a national leader in many aerospace related fields from the very beginning. The first civilian pilot training program in the nation was developed in Alabama by the Wright brothers at the site of what is now Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery and the dedication of Alabamians in Huntsville made the manned exploration of the moon possible.

Participants of the AE day had the opportunity to view videos, look at displays, and participate in hands on demonstrations. Alabama Lifesaver provided a medical helicopter and crew to give an up close look at how general

aviation can affect our lives. Local pilots allowed visitors to inspect various types of fixed wing aircraft also.



9 year old Tamie McCain enjoys a ride in a vintage Ercoupe with CAP Lt. Col. Johnny Ward during the Aerospace Education day at Ashland/Lineville Airport

CAP cadets participated in cadet orientation rides in a Civil Air Patrol Cessna 172 and young people not in CAP had the opportunity to ride in one of two private airplanes. Special thanks goes out for the contributions of local pilot John Decourcey who provided his Piper and CAP pilot Lt. Col. Johnny Ward who brought his Ercoupe. The Shelby and Chilton County Squadrons supported Clay County Flight with an aircraft and pilots. The AE day was made possible by the contributions of Civil Air Patrol, local citizens, the support of the Clay County Airport Committee and by the Air Force Association through a grant from the Aerospace Education Foundation.

Squadron AL118 hosts FAA Aviation Safety Seminar

Squadron 118 sponsored and helped to present an FAA aviation safety seminar

on March 3 specifically designed for the CAP and other first responders on the dangers of BRS systems and other post crash responsibilities. This was attended by members of several squadrons as well as fire service personnel and law enforcement. Civil Air Patrol squadrons represented were: Pell City, Gadsden, Birmingham, Shelby County, Bessemer, Tuscaloosa, and Redstone. Members of the following fire departments were in attendance: Pell City, Coosa Valley, Birmingham, Homewood, and Riverside. Several Law Enforcement Agencies were represented as well. Cadets from the Pell City Squadron also were present.

The program was presented by Richard Henry and Tom Mullin of the FAA's Birmingham Flight Standards District Office. There were video and slide presentations as well as discussion on the dangers faced by first responders when encountering accident aircraft with Ballistic Recovery Systems installed but not deployed. This training is in response to incidents of post accident deployment that have resulted in injury and death to first responders.

Those in attendance learned how these systems work and how to identify the presence of a Ballistic Recovery System. And most importantly, how to avoid injury when working in proximity to an undeployed system.

The program also included tips on appropriate action and responsibilities at the scene of any crash with respect to injuries and deaths, airplane systems, record keeping of pertinent facts, and the steps to take to insure the safety of everyone present. Several pictures of different types of fuel cutoff valves,

magneto switches, master switches, and ignition switches were also presented.

The two hour program was attended by approximately 100 people from the three targeted groups.

Maj. Donnie Todd

Bessemer Composite Squadron Holds Awards Ceremony

On 3 April 2006, Bessemer Composite Squadron (AL-087) conducted a Member Recognition and Awards Ceremony at their squadron building. This type of event is held two to three times a year to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of our members and others. Squadron Commander Capt. Jim Smiley emceed the event. Honored and distinguished guests included: Col. Bob Dorning, former ALWG Commander, Lt. Col. Walter Williams, ALWG Vice Commander, Maj. Tony Petelos, AL-087 member and Mayor of Hoover, Alabama, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carson. This was the largest ceremony we've conducted thus far with nearly sixty members, family, and guests in attendance.

Colors were posted by Bessemer Composite Squadron 2006 Color Guard Unit members: C/A1C Charles Deering, C/CMSgt Jeremy Adams (Color Guard Commander), C/CMSgt Amos Elmore, and C/TSgt John Fuller. Bessemer's 2006 Color Guard Unit also includes C/A1C Jordan Box who was unable to attend.

Our 2006 Color Guard unit brought great credit and distinction to their squadron by competing in the 2006 Alabama Wing

Cadet Competition and winning first place standing in every event. A big poster adorns the squadron building declaring "FOURPEAT!" as this is the fourth consecutive year Bessemer Cadets have won the ALWG competition. Our Color Guard Cadets are affectionately referred to as our "Shining Stars" for their efforts, and a cake appropriately decorated with stars and their names was presented to them at the ceremony.



In January of this year, the squadron commander encouraged the cadets to come up with a design for a unique squadron flag or banner that depicts who the members of Bessemer Composite Squadron are. While this flag is unofficial in nature and is not designed to take the place of the standard issue squadron flag, it is expected to remind our members, and others who view it, that our squadron is unique in character and composition, and to encourage our members to excel in everything they do. The winning design was submitted by C/CMSgt Amos Elmore, and he presented the new flag to the squadron at this ceremony.

Cadets are expected to give a speech to an audience as a part of their advancement into the officer ranks of cadet membership. C/CMSgt Jeremy Adams presented an excellent talk which served as an example to his peers and motivated both cadet and senior members of the squadron to always do the right thing in every aspect of their lives.

We were fortunate to have Lt. Col. Walter Williams assist with the presentation of recognition certificates and awards. Col. Williams is a former member of Bessemer Composite Squadron and served as our Deputy Commander for Seniors before assuming his current duties. So, this evening was sort of a homecoming event for him and us. Pictures of the various recipients were taken by Lt. Glenn Wilson and Capt. Jimmy Mitchell (attached). A special cake and plaques were presented to C/Maj. Jamie DeSpain and Capt. Darryl Barry for being selected as Bessemer Composite Squadron's Cadet of the Year and Senior Member of the Year respectively. A listing of recognition and award recipients is included below:

Certificate of Appreciation for donations to our building fund:

Lowe's of Trussville Alabama
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carson, Sundance Farms, Alabaster Alabama

Recognition of Red Service Award (2 Years)

Lt. Rosalind Fazel
Lt. Col. Walter Williams
Cadet Devin Adams

Recognition of Curry Achievement

Cadet Jordan Box
Cadet Taylor Cox

Cadet Matthew Davidson
Cadet Corey Dean
Cadet Nathaniel Gates

Recognition of Level 1 Completion

SM Catherine Mann
SM John Pearson
SM Sheila Smiley

Recognition of ARCHER Qualification

Lt. Ken Trowbridge
Lt. Glenn Wilson

Recognition of SDIS Operator Qualification

Capt. Jimmy Mitchell
Lt. Glenn Wilson
Maj. Terry Richmond
Col. Bob Dorning
Capt. Jim Smiley

Recognition of GES Qualification

Cadet Jacob Meins
Cadet Cristian Sanchez
Cadet John Fuller
Cadet Charles Deering

Recognition of ELT Find Ribbon Award for ELT Mission

Lt. Col. Walter Williams
Capt. Paul Moses

Recognition of Previous Promotion

C/A1C Jordan Box
C/A1C Matthew Davidson
C/A1C Charles Deering
C/Amn Corey Dean

Recognition of Appointment to Military Academy

C/Maj. Jamie DeSpain – US Military Academy at West Point
C/Capt. Erinn Scott – US Air Force Academy

Recognition of Nomination for “Of the Year” Award

Capt. Teresa Petelos – Cadet Programs Officer of the Year
Lt. Rosalind Fazel – Communicator of the Year
C/Maj. Jamie DeSpain – Cadet of the Year
C/Lt. Darryl Barry – Senior Member of the Year

New Promotions

C/CMSgt Jeremy Adams
C/CMSgt Amos Emore
C/Amn Taylor Cox
C/TSgt John Fuller
C/Capt. Bryan Miller
Capt. Bo Andrews
Capt. Darryl Barry

Commander’s Commendation Award

C/Maj. Jamie DeSpain
C/CMSgt Jeremy Adams
C/Lt Devin Adams
C/Lt. Philp Ronan
C/CMSgt Amos Emore
C/Capt. Erinn Scott

What does an Alabama Air Force Academy appointee for class of 2010, and an Alabama West Point (ARMY) appointee for the class of 2010 have in common?

Well for starters, they are both Al Wing CAP cadets and even more they are both the present and past commanders of the Bessemer Composite Sq. C/Majors Jamie DeSpain and Erinn Scott have each been selected to attend our nation’s service academies.

Cadet DeSpain who is scheduled to graduate from Hoover HS this spring has been in CAP for the past 3 ½ years. He is the past commander of cadets of the Bessemer Composite SQ. Per Cadet DeSpain "I had always aspired to go into the military, ever since I was very young (coming from 2 generations of previous Army officers), and when I found out what CAP was, I immediately jumped at the idea. Right after that first meeting I joined CAP and hoped that I would somewhat prepare me for the leadership challenges and the military-style life that I hoped to face later on at the Academy.

I definitely feel that CAP has prepared me for West Point and for that I will be forever indebted to the organization. I also mention that I love history and I feel that I am forever indebted to those men who have given their lives' to make mine free. With that said, I feel that I must give back some of my life to my country and I believe that the Academy is the best route for which to do that. I also believe that an officer is the best form of leader there is and I know the Academy can turn me into the best officer I can be.

I chose West Point because, having come from two generations of Army officers, I was already familiar with the lifestyle. West Point also fit my career goals perfectly, I plan to branch in the Infantry, go to Ranger School and become an Airborne Ranger. My ultimate goal is to become Chief of Staff of the Army. Plus, the history of West Point and the type of men who have graduated from there was a big selling point, there's nothing bigger than becoming part of the Long Gray Line."

Cadet/ Major Erin Scott, who is planning to graduate this year from

Hoover HS in Hoover, Alabama, is the current Cadet SQ Commander for the Bessemer Composite SQ (AL 087). In her 2½ years of CAP service some of her past accomplishments include Commander of the 2005 AL Wing Color Guard, 2005 AL Wing Encampment Sq Commander, and outstanding cadet 2004 Mississippi Wing encampment. She received "multiple" academy appointments (West Point/Army, Annapolis/Navy, and the AF Academy) and she chose the AF Academy over the others, she said "guess the I Army and the Navy just couldn't pull me away from those Air Force blues!!!"

Cadet Scott said "Civil Air Patrol got me interested in the Air Force, more specifically the Academy. Ever since my first Encampment, I knew I wanted to be a cadet there. I applied to the Academy because I wanted the challenge, the leadership, the experience, and the prestige". Per Cadet Scott "My main concern is that I learn the leadership skills necessary to lead men. I want the people that I lead to want to say, "Yeah, that's MY commander!"- to be an officer who is respected because I take care of my people. "

Her recommendation for ANY cadet who is interested in the service academies is "Start Early!! Everything you do, whether in school or CAP or whatever, it counts!! Set yourself up for success by working hard; that way, when you are ready to apply you can be confident in your accomplishments. Make sure you apply at the end of your junior year of High School, the earlier the Academy sees your name in their file, the better. And don't get discouraged when the letters and the papers and the reports don't come – the Air Force Academy will

take a little longer than the other Academies, but it is definitely worth the wait!”.

They both attribute CAP as a factor in their appointments to the academy.

This is a very prestigious appointment and deserves a notice at all levels of CAP. This is the future and with young motivated and outstanding individuals like this we should all be proud of them.

By CAP/Major Jimmie Cox



Redstone Composite Squadron Cadet Selected for U.S. Air Force Academy

Redstone Composite Squadron Cadet Andrew M. Johnson has been selected to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 2010. In addition to his acceptance to the Air Force Academy he has received

scholarships from Auburn Air Force ROTC, a freshman Academic Scholarship from Auburn, and a TVA Scholarship.

Cadet Johnson has distinguished himself during his Civil Air Patrol (CAP) career by earning the Mitchell, Earhart and Eaker Awards. He has attended five National Special Activities and three encampments at Auburn University. He is also a former Redstone Composite Squadron Cadet Commander.

C/Capt Stephanie Petelos earns the Amelia Earhart Award.

C/Capt Stephanie Petelos earned the Amelia Earhart Award. She has been in CAP for almost four years and a member of the Bessemer Composite Squadron AL 087 holding various staff positions at her local squadron during her cadet career. She has received the Sergeant's Association NCO of the year Award, Red Service Award, and others. C/Capt Petelos has served on the Alabama Wing Cadet Advisory Council and is the Co-director of the Alabama Wing NCO Leadership School.

She has participated on two Wing Championship Color Guard teams and in two SER competitions, and attended the South East Region Cadet Leadership School. C/Capt Petelos has attended four encampments and served in the staff positions of Flight Sergeant and First Sergeant.

She will be the Cadet Executive Officer at the 2006 MS/ALWG Encampment. This summer C/Capt Petelos will be finishing her third year from the National Honor Guard Academy.

She is very active in and outside of CAP. She attends Hoover High School, where she is a member of the track team, SGA, and Law Academy. She has received the community service award, and serves on the City of Hoover Coalition, and the City of Hoover Teen Board.



C/Capt. Kraft Receives Earhart Award

C/Capt Chester Kraft received his Earhart Award at the Alabama Wing Conference, April 29, 2006. “The **Amelia Earhart Award** which is earned after completing the first eleven achievements of the cadet program and receipt of the General Billy Mitchell Award. In addition, the cadet must pass an arduous 100 question

examination testing aerospace topics, leadership theory and staff topics” is the way the Earhart is described on the Cadet Program web page. This advanced award is only earned by the most diligent of cadets, who truly care about Civil Air Patrol and their part in it.

Cadet Kraft is a native of Colorado Springs, Colorado and moved to Huntsville AL in July 1994. He has played Little League Baseball and has played in the Babe Ruth League for four years. He joined Civil Air Patrol in 2003 and was named Squadron Cadet of the Year in 2005. He was the Honor Cadet at his first encampment and a member of the Honor Flight at his second one.

He graduates from High School this year. Home schooled under the educational program of the North Alabama Friends School, he received nominations to West Point and the Air Force Academy. He has received offers of scholarships from University of Alabama, Huntsville; Birmingham Southern; and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott Campus.

Offers of a four year Army ROTC full scholarship at Embry Riddle Prescott, and a three year AFROTC Scholarship give him additional choices for his future.

He is the son of Harold and Barbara Kraft of Huntsville AL.



Col Tilton, C/Capt Kraft, Col Oakman

He is a ground team member, a private pilot and holds jump wings as an Air Force Basic Parachutist. Attending Auburn University, he serves as the Wing Commander Air Force ROTC at the University.

An outstanding member of the Alabama Wing, Capt Matcheck provides a excellent example of what it means to be a cadet. Lt. Christopher Tate accepted Capt. Matcheck's award at the Alabama Wing Conference in April.

Cadet of the Year Award

Capt Brett Matcheck, was a Cadet Colonel when he was nominated for and awarded the Cadet of the Year Award. He moved to the Senior Member program and became the Deputy Commander for Cadets in the Auburn Composite Squadron.

He has a distinguished cadet career. He received the Spaatz Award #1476 in September 2002. He was a IACE participant in 2002 to Holland, has attended encampments in Colorado, Georgia, and Alabama, as well as National Ground Search and Rescue (NGSAR), The National Flight Academy Glider, and COS.

He was Cadet of the Year for 2005 in Alabama and Cadet of the Year 2003 in Georgia, while he was a member of the Peachtree City Falcon Field Composite Squadron.

Major Jay Holland Senior member of the Year



Major Jay Holland joined CAP in 1997 in London, Kentucky where he worked as an Air Traffic Controller with the Flight Service Option. He transferred to the Anniston Flight Service Station where I work as a Flight Service Specialist. He has served as the Counterdrug Officer (CDO) job since 2001.

He has several projects under way such as E-rad flying/SDIS/Archer and all the CD projects and training that goes with the job.

Major Holland is a Multi – Commercial – Instrument pilot with over 1500 hours. I also fly the GA8 for all the Archer trainees at the Maxwell AFB. An example of volunteer at its finest, his service to the Alabama Wing and Civil Air Patrol is invaluable.

Alabama Wing Conference: A Successful Weekend

“It was the best conference I’ve ever attended,” was the comment generally heard after the Alabama Wing held its annual conference in Huntsville, Alabama at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. The conference began with a Commander’s Reception on Friday night. After a buffet dinner, Ralph Hood kept the group attending holding their sides with laughter. His subject was “It’s Clear on Top.” Humor, laughter, and a serious message about meeting life’s problems and how Civil Air Patrol helps us “get above the weather” held everyone’s attention.



***Ralph Hood
“It’s Clear on Top”***

A Continental breakfast with rolls, coffee and orange juice greeted members on Saturday morning, registration opened, and members assembled for the morning general session. The Blue Notes, a Huntsville Police Officer’s singing quartet, entertained during breakfast as members found seats. The Blue Notes sang the National Anthem and Chaplain M. Hicks gave the invocation and the conference began. Lt. Col. Larry Becker, the coordinator of the conference, presided over the morning session.

Mr. Matt Mason, Manager, Technical Services and Piston Oil Research & Development, Air BP Lubricants division of BP, Castrol Oil spoke on statistics and the benefits of aviation products for aircraft.

The Key Note speaker was Paul W. Johnson from NASA. He is currently an Aerospace Engineer at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, Alabama. Working within the Safety and Mission Assurance Office (S&MA), his tasks have included being a lead safety, quality, and reliability and maintainability engineer for space flight hardware destined to fly onboard the Space Shuttle, to the International Space Station (ISS). Currently he has been tasked with working on multiple projects for the new space initiative to the Moon and Mars. Mr. Johnson is an active member of the Huntsville Composite Squadron.

His topic was NASA: Past, Present and Future. He talked about the past accomplishments of NASA and about the current missions, such as the Space

Shuttle and planetary missions. In his multimedia presentation, he was able to show slides of the moon and Mars mission vehicles, as well as photos taken by the Hubble. Cadets and senior members alike listened to his enthusiastic speech about NASA.

The door prizes, donated by the three area airports and various community businesses, included an aviation headset, a computer carry-on case, a golf weekend, original oil paintings, and gift certificates.

Cadets and some of the senior members were able to register for a trip to the Space and Rocket Center during the afternoon. Breakout sections were conducted in Communications, Public Affairs, Emergency Services, ARCHER information, and other topics of interest to members.

Cadet Capt. Kraft was presented his Earhart Award by Col John Tilton, SER Commander and Col. Michael Oakman, Alabama Wing Commander. He is a member of the Redstone Composite Squadron. Maj. Randall Haney and Capt. Peggy Haney accepted the charter for the new Middle School Cadet Squadron in Boaz, AL.

Awards were presented by Col John Tilton, SER Commander, Col. Mike Oakman, Alabama Wing and Lt. Col Walter Williams, Vice-Commander for the Alabama Wing. The Squadron of Merit, the Autaugua-Elmore Squadron was given a streamer to attach to their squadron flag.



The Squadron of Merit, the Autaugua-Elmore Squadron

Homeland provided the entertainment during the Saturday evening banquet. Their patriotic performance emphasized the spirit of the volunteer and admiration of the service people who have served in the Armed Forces defending the freedoms of Americans. Dry eyes could not be found when a tribute to fallen marines was sung.

Col Michael Oakman, Alabama Wing Commander, presented awards. Captain Brett Matcheck received the Cadet of the Year Award. Capt Matcheck was a Cadet Colonel when nominated and chosen as Cadet of the Year. He is now the Deputy Commander for Cadets in the Auburn Composite Squadron. Redstone Composite Squadron received the Award for Squadron of the Year, and Major Jay Holland received Senior Member of the Year.



*Redstone Composite Squadron of the Year
Col Mike Oakman, Capt Dani Richard,
Col John Tilton*

**Awards were given at the
Alabama Wing Conference on
April 28-29, 2006.**

Commander's Commendations

| | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| Lt Col | Harold | Coghlan |
| Lt Col | Jean | Spruill |
| Lt Col | John | Atkins |
| Lt. Col | Bruce | Gearhart |
| Lt. Col | Larry | Becker |
| Maj | Henry | Decker |
| Maj | Pat | Mitcham |
| Capt | Jimmy | Mitchell |
| Capt | Pamela | Byford |
| Capt | Oliver | Cork |
| Capt | David | Hester |
| Capt | Stephen | Sellers |
| Capt | Paul | Moses |
| Capt | Amanda | Anderson |
| 1 Lt | Gerald | Lusk |
| 1 Lt | Peter | Levy |
| 2 Lt | Horace | Poole |
| 2 Lt | Floyd | Glass |
| SM | Gordon | Ladenski |
| SM | Russell | Moore |
| SM | Bruce | Yeager |

| | | |
|-------|-------------|-----------|
| Cadet | Robert | Byford |
| Cadet | Ashley | Clarke |
| Cadet | John | Fulbright |
| Cadet | Joshua | Glass |
| Cadet | Joshua | McCain |
| Cadet | Christopher | Smithson |

Grover Loening Awards

| | | |
|------|--------|------------|
| Capt | Jim | Smiley |
| Capt | James | Kelly |
| Capt | Bertha | Cunningham |
| 1 Lt | Robert | Bennett |

Chuck Yeager Awards

| | | |
|------|---------|-----------|
| 2 Lt | Anthony | Beresford |
| 2 Lt | Michael | McEntyre |
| 2 Lt | Ted | McMaster |

Exceptional Service Award

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Lt. Col | Don | Canady |
| Lt. Col | Dennis | Flowers |
| Lt. Col | Daniel | Hyde |
| Lt. Col | Glen | Rush |
| Lt. Col | Johnny | Ward |
| Maj | Michael | Long |

Meritorious Service Award

| | | |
|---------|------|--------|
| Lt. Col | John | Atkins |
|---------|------|--------|

Joint Task Force Katrina Certificate

| | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| Lt.Col. | Jean | Spruill |
| 1 Lt | Justin | Smith |
| 1 Lt | Christopher | Tate |

Squadron Combines Function and Fellowship

Prior to Wing events, such as SARXs and the recent Wing Conference, the Tuscaloosa Squadron (AL024) frequently plans a plane washing with the opportunity for members and their guests to fellowship after the work is done

With the Wing Conference right around the corner, the Squadron Commander, 1st Lt. Poole scheduled an April plane-washing event and invited all members to participate. This is an event the Tuscaloosa Squadron enjoys regularly.

Everyone was encouraged to bring his/her family and enjoy a cookout following the plane-washing. Much to everyone's surprise, Commander Claude Poole proved to be an excellent chef, and served up mountains of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs to eager members and their guests on the terminal ramp of Tuscaloosa Municipal Airport.

The squadron aircraft, N9522X, is equipped with SDIS capabilities, which have been used on several missions since installation. Ten squadron members are qualified to operate the new system, and additional members are in the process of receiving SDIS certification. The goal of the Tuscaloosa Squadron is to have rapid-response capabilities, with numerous trained back-up crews in the event of any incident.



AL024 Awards and Promotions

At the recent Wing conference held in Huntsville, several members of the Tuscaloosa Composite Squadron were awarded certificates recognizing their service to the Civil Air Patrol.



From left to right are 2nd Lt. Russell Moore, 1st Lt. Claude Poole, and 1st Lt. Jerry Lusk received The Commander's Commendation Award for Outstanding Duty performed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Chaplain Capt. Roger Bennett received a certificate acknowledging his Level 2 achievement while attending the Chaplain's Service Regional Staff College. Bennett also received recognition for completion of the Critical Incident Stress Management – Group Crisis Intervention course.



Tuscaloosa Squadron members receiving promotions are from left to right Claude

Poole to 1st Lt., Josh Wakefield to 2nd Lt., Russell Moore to 2nd Lt., Rick Swatloski to 2nd Lt., Jill Sherman to Maj., Ed Barnes to Capt., Virginia Price to 2nd Lt., Sharon Lusk to 2nd Lt., and Roger Bennett to Chaplain Capt.

Congratulations to these members for their efforts in carrying out missions for America!

the award with each region and act in concert with national headquarters to present the first awards during the August 2006 National Board.

4. This policy remains in effect until CAP's regulations are updated to reflect this new award.

<signed>

ANTONIO J. PINEDA
Major General, CAP
Commander

Cadet Programs Missions Awards Policy Letter

1. At the November 2005 NEC meeting, the members approved recognizing the outstanding Cadet Programs wing in each region, just as CAP currently does to recognize the outstanding AE and ES wings. These are commonly referred to as the missions awards given out yearly during the summer National Board meetings.

2. The Region Commanders and the CAP-USAF Liaison Region Commanders will review the annual Squadron of Distinction data to help determine the outstanding Cadet Programs wing in their region. While the Squadron of Distinction award recognizes an outstanding cadet or composite squadron in each wing, the same cadet programs data can be used to compare all of the squadrons in each wing to determine the outstanding wing in each region.

3. The National Cadet Programs Special Advisor will take the lead in coordinating

New CAP Database for Security Clearances

1. We are working on several initiatives to position CAP to be able to perform classified Homeland Security missions. One of the initiatives is to develop a database for members who already have security clearances issued by a Federal agency.

2. We have modified the CAP membership database to allow members to input the specifics of their clearance. A new form has been developed which allows members to enter their clearance information into their membership record along with their other personal data. This feature is now available under the Review/Edit My Member Info section in the upper center area of the eServices login page.

3. Commanders please disseminate this information to your members and encourage those with National

Security Clearances adjudicated thru other Federal Government agencies to log on and register their clearances in eServices. HQ CAP-USAF will validate the clearances on a regular basis by verifying the information with the Federal Agency that issued the clearance. CAP-USAF has access to the Department of Defense security clearance database to validate clearances issued by DoD.

However, CAP-USAF does not have similar access to the databases of other Federal Government agencies so they will need additional help in validating clearances issued by non-DoD agencies. If your members are submitting a clearance from a non-DoD agency, they should also e-mail MSgt Jason Moorhead at Jason.Moorhead@Maxwell.af.mil and give him the Federal agency point of contact for security clearances so he can contact them to validate the clearance.

4. Please contact Janie Jenkins at NHQ if you have any general questions about security clearance matters. She can be reached at 877-227-9142 ext 208 or jjenkins@cap.gov.

<signed>

*JOHN A. SALVADOR
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS*

1 in 5 Teens Misuse Prescription Drugs

For the third straight year, a [Partnership for a Drug-Free America](#) (PDFA) study has found that about 20 percent of U.S.

teens have misused prescription painkillers like Vicodin and OxyContin, even as smoking and drinking decline, the [Associated Press](#) reported May 16.

Researchers expressed concern that use of prescription drugs may be becoming entrenched among youth, many of whom believe that using these painkillers to get high is safer than taking illicit drugs. According to the PDFA's 2005 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, 40 percent of 7th- to 12th-graders said that prescription drugs were "much safer" than illicit drugs, 31 percent said there was nothing wrong with occasional use of these drugs, and 29 percent thought that prescription painkillers were not addictive.

Teens also told researchers that prescription drugs were easy to get: 62 percent said they could get powerful painkillers at home, and 52 percent said the drugs were "available everywhere."

"That's why we're putting a lot of our attending on educating parents," said PDFA president and CEO Steve Pasierb said. "They don't have a frame of reference in a lot of cases. This kind of behavior (prescription drug abuse) didn't exist when they were teens."

The study also found that 22 percent of respondents smoked, and 33 percent said they had consumed alcohol within the past 30 days.

Col Mike Oakman

**New Alabama Wing Director of
Communications, 2 Lt. Sam Glass.**

2 Lt. Glass comes to us from Baldwin Co. Squadron where he served as Communications Officer. Sam has also served as Net Control Officer for the Region HF net. I have the utmost confidence in Sam as I'm sure you do as well.

Should you have any communications needs or questions please direct them to Sam. His contact information can be found here:

<http://www.alwg.cap.gov/comm/commst aff.htm>

Continue to return your Communications Equipment Revalidation forms to Capt Al Boyd or me. This will keep confusion to a minimum.

Please offer your assistance to Sam as he leads the Wing's Communications program into a exciting new future.

*Rick Hasha
Lt Col CAP
ALWG CS*



Shelby County hosts Fly In Fund Raiser and Plane Wash

The Shelby County Squadron hosts a Fly In Breakfast, Fly In Lunch and Flea/Fly Market and raised more than \$500. for

the unit. Some ten Squadron members helped out by cooking, serving food, handling money, and eating lunch.

The big money maker was the FLEA/FLY Market that included many aviation items all of which were donated by Squadron members. Several members took some time off also to wash Shelby County's C 172.

The activities started when some members arrived at the Shelby County Airport before 7:00 AM to start cooking and the activities ended at 3:00 PM. Lt. Col. Johnny Ward, Squadron Commander, said that this was a much needed fund raiser, but also a FUN activity with members working together as a team.

This was also a Public Relations activity according to Ward. FLY In Aircraft included a Stearman, a Super Chipmunk, and a T-6. The money raised will help go to paying the hanger rent and for fuel for training.

ELT Mission ends at the Diamond Lil



Emergency Locator Transmitters have been found hidden in barns, in trunks of cars, in hangers, and in airplanes. Huntsville Composite Squadron took a step into history to find one on the 16th of May. Huntsville personnel were sent to find an ELT in the North Alabama area on Monday, May 15th.

After searching Huntsville International, a non-operational crop duster field in the area and Pryor Field in Decatur, the ground team was unable to find anything and the signal disappeared. The mission was closed by AFRCC after three passes by SAR-SATs without detecting a signal.

On Tuesday, another signal was detected by SAR-SAT and a new mission was opened and a Huntsville team was dispatched.

This time all signals were located on or around Huntsville International Airport. The clearly distinguishable ELT signal was not present and only the carrier was being transmitted. In coordination with Airport Security and personnel in the FAA tower, the search team searched the airport for the elusive signal. After several hours of searching AFRCC concluded it was a “non-distress” event since there were no reported missing or overdue aircraft in or near the area at the time of the search. The decision was made to postpone the search until the next day.

One last DF sweep around the Airport was going to be the final sortie of the day. The carrier wave was suddenly isolated to the B-24 that had just taxied up on the ramp outside Signature Aviation. The B-24 had arrived the day before, on tour, and had been taking fans

on rides around Huntsville since its arrival. Thus the scattered SAR-SAT hits from the day before and the “elusive” carrier signal on the ground on and around the airport on the 16th. A malfunctioning ELT was found in the tail section of the “Diamond Lil,” the oldest B-24 still flying. The B-24 is owned and operated by the Commemorative Air Force.

“Diamond Lil was the 25th of over 18,000 built,” according to the Diamond Lil website:

<http://www.cafb29b24.org/index.html>.

It was to have been delivered to Great Britain in 1941, but was involved in an accident. Repaired, it has flown as a transport plane for various companies until the CAF acquired it in 1967. “Old 927 ... was put in the paint scheme and markings of the 98th Bomb Group of the 9th Air Force” in 1971.



1 Lt Ian Johnston, Capt Barry Roberts, and Lt. Col Gene Mitcham follow the signal

The search team was able to look inside the “Diamond Lil” and talk with the crew that had brought it to Huntsville on tour. The complete tour schedule and details about “Diamond Lil” are available at the website.

Missing Georgia Aircraft found near Tuskegee, Alabama

Notified on Wednesday, May 10th, that an aircraft en route from Habersham County, Georgia, had disappeared from radar in the Tallapoosa and Macon County area of Alabama, Lt. Col. Dennis Flowers alerted staff and search efforts by the Alabama Wing, Civil Air Patrol began. The Alabama State Troopers' helicopter and the Tallapoosa County Sheriff personnel took part in the search.

The Auburn Composite Squadron arrived in the search area just four hours after the initial call came in on Wednesday, despite the storms in the area. The Auburn ground team coordinated early activity with the Tuskegee, Lee County, and Tallapoosa County Police, Fire and Rescue, and the Alabama State Troopers. They assisted in providing relevant information on the business, aircraft maintenance, friends and family for the Incident Coordinator. Some Wednesday afternoon searches were halted because of the strong storms in the search area.

A Mission Base opened at Moton Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, on Thursday morning. By 5:00 AM ground teams had signed in and were dispatched to the search area to be ready to respond should any sites be found by either the State Trooper helicopter or the CAP aircraft. The American Red Cross drove in an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) to provide a canteen for the many volunteers at the site, which was near Camp Hill, AL. All CAP aircraft were dispatched from Tuskegee Airport, Moton Field.

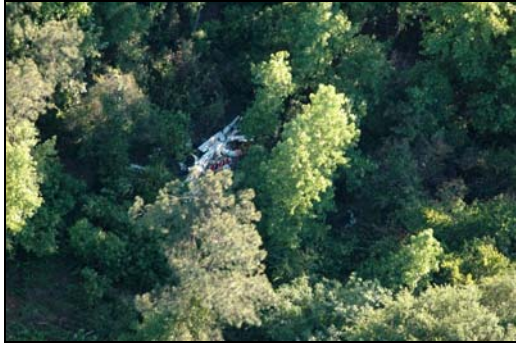


Capt. Ray Harkey, Lt Col. Rick Hasha (Front), Lt. Randy McGough and Capt. Mark Gurganus.

Five Alabama aircraft flew nine mission sorties, a total of twenty-five flight hours, on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. The Airborne Real-time Cueing Hyperspectral Enhanced Recon (ARCHER) system was used on Thursday because the system is able to identify specific objects or substances by reflected light from an object in spectrums the human eye cannot see.

Ground teams from the Auburn Composite Squadron, the Autauga-Elmore Composite Squadron and the Maxwell Composite Squadron worked tirelessly to investigate possible sites as they were reported by air crews.

The SDIS system, also used by Civil Air Patrol, obtained pictures of the site after the wreckage had been located. Over 40 CAP members, cadets and senior members, participated in the search effort over the two day period.



SDIS photo by Maj. Mark Gurganus

The search area was centered on the Last Known Position (LKP) south of Dadeville and a twenty-five mile radius around it. The terrain is hilly and heavily covered with trees making spotting any wreckage difficult from the air.

A ground team composed of CAP Members, State Troopers and Tallapoosa County Sheriff confirmed positive ID of the aircraft on Thursday afternoon about 4:30 PM CDT. There were no survivors. The Tallapoosa County Sheriff assumed control of the crash site and the ground team returned to Mission Base. NTSB, FAA, and other county officials remained at the site.

*Maj Pat Mitcham
DPA*

Redstone Composite Finds and Silences ELT

On Monday, 1 May, at 0208Z Lt. Col. Dennis Flowers, ALWG DOS received a call from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) advising him of an ELT signal the SARSAT system had picked up between Huntsville and Grant.

Lt. Col. Larry Becker served as the on-scene commander and Lt. Col Dan Riley and Lt. Col. Jim Harris served as the UDF team. The ELT was located in a Cessna 172 on the ramp at Moontown Airport and silenced at 0343Z.

Lt. Col. Dennis Flowers

Redstone Composite and Huntsville Composite Squadron hold training exercise.

Huntsville Composite Squadron and Redstone Composite Squadron held a training mission on 22 April 2006. A practice ELT and target was set out for ground teams and air crews. After classroom training, four air sorties were briefed and dispatched. Two ground teams also searched for and found the target.



“This was a good day for training” was the general comment from all crews and

missions staff. The photos taken by Capt. Steve Riccio from an aircraft piloted by Capt. Carl Foster clearly show what a good day it was.

Glider Operations

Every CAP Cadet can receive five Glider Orientation Flights FREE. The Shelby County Squadron heads up the Alabama Wing glider program. The flights may be arranged by contacting Lt. Col Johnny Ward, Commander, at 205-941-1691 (home) 205-910-5856 (cell) or email me at johnnyward@charter.net. The glider program is operated out of the Flying X Ranch Airfield in Shelby County. Cadets and Senior Members may camp out at the Flying X with prior permission. Several squadrons have done this. There is a lake next to the airfield and a canoe is available. Senior members may get glider flights by paying the air tow (\$25-30.) plus \$10 per hour for the glider. If you have never flown in a glider (sailplane), you need to try it.

Lt. Col. Johnny Ward

Clay County Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, May 9, 2006, was a very special night for Clay County Flight Civil Air Patrol as they held their Promotion and Award Ceremony at the Clay County Farmers Market. Many guests were on hand to celebrate with the cadets as their achievements and promotions were recognized.

Major Harris, Air Force Reserve Assistant, attended the ceremony and presented many of the awards.



A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Ronnie Suddeth of Lineville for his continued support of the Clay County Flight and for his participation in our training events as well as his financial support. Many citizens have supported us throughout the year, too many to name, THANKS to all of you!

Senior members Laura Fulbright and John Luckie were promoted to 1st Lieutenant while John and Sherry McCain were both presented with service awards.

Captain David Hester was presented the Exceptional Service Award for his contribution to the relief efforts during Hurricane Katrina.

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Joshua McCain and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Travis Fulbright were presented Meritorious Service Awards, Lifesaving Awards and Commanders Commendation Awards. Both these Young men worked alongside rescue workers providing food and water to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in southern Mississippi for several days.

Cadet Caleb Branch was promoted to Cadet Master Sergeant and received several other awards for his service in his flight and community. Cadet Tim Kyner was promoted to Staff Sergeant and

received his Wright Brothers ribbon for his achievements. Cadet Zachary Amason was promoted to Cadet Airman and received his Curry ribbon for his achievement.



The Clay County Color Guard presented the colors at the Senior Awards Day at Clay County High School. Members of the Color Guard Are C/Amn Zack Amason, C/CMsgt Joshua McCain, C/CMsgt Travis Fullbright, and C/Msgt Caleb Branch



Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter. April and May were busy months. Our conference was great. If something was missed, please let me know

The first tropical storm of the season has developed in the Pacific. It won't affect the US, but it is a precursor to the Atlantic Season, a few short days away.

June 2006

The Summer 2005 Newsletter was Hurricane Preparedness. The material is still relevant. It is available on the web site at www.alwg.cap.gov.

The last two pages of this newsletter are first from Capt. Paul Johnson, keynote speaker at the conference, who sent NASA websites for us to use. The last page is the Flyer for the MS/AL encampment. The deadline is June 5, 2006. It looks like it will be absolutely wonderful and that may not be an exaggeration.

The file is open for the September newsletter. It should be published on the web by September 5, 2006.

Please send your articles to kgreensharkey@ser.cap.gov for ReCAP, the Southeast Newsletter and send copies to me for our use.

Thank you again for contributing to the newsletter.

Pat Mitcham
Maj. CAP
DPA



View the Space Station:
<http://science.nasa.gov/Realtime>

Astronomy Picture of the Day:
<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

MSFC History:
<http://history.msfc.nasa.gov>

NASA Explores:
www.nasaexplores.com

NASA Kids (MSFC):
<http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov>

NASA Kids (GSFC):
<http://library.gsfc.nasa.gov>

NASA MSFC News:
<http://www1.msfc.nasa.gov/NEWSROOM>

NASA Solutions:
<http://techtran.msfc.nasa.gov>

NASA Spacelink:
www.nasa.gov

NASA Quest:
<http://quest.arc.nasa.gov>

NASA Watch:
www.nasawatch.com

National Air and Space Museum:
www.airspacemag.com

Science at NASA:
<http://science.nasa.gov>

Space Educators Handbook:
<http://vesuvius.jsc.nasa.gov/er/seh>

Space News:
www.space.com/spacenews

Space Product Development:
<http://spd.nasa.gov>

Space Report:
www.spacereport.net

Starship 2040:
www.starship2040.com

The Great Moonbuggy Race:
<http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov>

NASA Centers:

Head Quarters (HQ):
(Corporate Office)
www.nasa.gov/hq

Ames Research Center (ARC):
www.arc.nasa.gov

Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC):
(Atmospheric Flight Operations)
www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/home/index.html

Glenn Research Center (GRC):
(Turbomachinery)
www.grc.nasa.gov

Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC):
(Scientific Research)
www.nasa.gov/goddard

Wallops Flight Facility (WFF):
(Suborbital Research Programs)
www.wff.nasa.gov

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL):
(Deep Space Systems)
www.jpl.nasa.gov/

Johnson Space Center (JSC):
(Human Operations in Space)
www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/home/index.html

White Sands Test Facility (WSTF):
www.wstf.nasa.gov

Kennedy Space Center (KSC):
(Launch and Cargo Processing Systems)
www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/index.html

Langley Research Center (LaRC):
(Structures and Materials)
www.nasa.gov/centers/langley/home/index.html

Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC):
www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/home/index.html

Stennis Space Center
www.nasa.gov/centers/stennis/home



2006 Mississippi / Alabama Wing Encampment



24 June – 1 July

at the Gulfport Air National Guard Base in Gulfport, Mississippi

Commander: Maj Richard Griffith, CAP **Cadet Commander:** C/Maj Brian McGinley, CAP



MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP TODAY – APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE POSTMARKED BY 5 JUNE!

The Mississippi/Alabama Wing Encampment will take place at the Air National Guard CRTC in Gulfport, Mississippi. Additionally, cadets will tour and participate in activities at Keesler Air Force Base and Stennis Space Center.

For more information, including an application package, frequently asked questions section, staff listing, and packing list, go to www.alwg.cap.gov and click on the encampment link.